

## Rainfall floods roads, kills 3 in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Heavy rains have flooded roads and homes in Israel and were blamed for the deaths of three teenagers whose car was swept away in the flooding, police said Saturday. Searchers found the bodies of the teenagers along the Sorek River near Rehovot, about 25 kilometres south of Tel Aviv. Flood waters carried their car away after it got stuck on a bridge early Saturday, Israel Radio said. The Yarkon River, which flows through Tel Aviv, crested in three spots causing heavy flooding in some areas, the radio said. In the Haifa bay area, some 90 kilometres north of Tel Aviv, some families were evacuated from flooded homes, Israel Radio said. Power lines were down and some walls had collapsed, but no injuries were reported. It was the second time this winter that heavy rains caused flooding along Israel's lowlands. Ironically, this arid land has suffered a drought for about five years, and was on the verge of rationing drinking water last summer. Earlier this month, seven days of torrential rains blocked major highways and caused the death of two Israeli soldiers and two Arabs.

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## Floods hit Lebanon; at least 1 killed

BEIRUT (AP) — Floods caused by torrential rains rushed through the streets Saturday as water and heavy winds knocked down power cables and disrupted communications across the country. Police said at least one person was killed — a coffee vendor drowned after his caravan overlooking the sea was swept away by waves battering the coast in the worst winter storm since 1987. Several rivers in the north and south were also flooded by week-long rains. Police said uprooted power poles caused a total blackout in Beirut and several mountain regions. All roads above 900 metres were blocked by snow. Authorities Friday night rescued 2,000 people trapped on the mountain road linking Beirut to the central Beka Valley. The floods isolated dozens of villages. At least three bridges on the main Beirut-Damascus highway east of the capital were closed. Radios blared police and civil defence warnings to avoid damaged roads, especially in mountainous areas where the rains were blocked.

## Syria recognises ex-Soviet republics

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria recognised Saturday Russia and the other 10 former Soviet republics which have agreed to form the commonwealth of independent states. A Foreign Ministry statement said Syria was also establishing diplomatic and consular relations with the 11 newly independent states. The other 10 states are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Only Georgia has not agreed to join the new commonwealth. The ministry said Syria's embassy in Moscow would serve as embassy to Russia and at the same time represent Syria in the other states until new embassies are opened there.

## Angry crowd blocks St. Petersburg street

MOSCOW (AP) — An angry crowd of about 200 people blocked the main street of St. Petersburg after they failed to get their share of sausage at a nearby shop, a news agency reported. In the southern city of Rostov-on-Don, 16 people were gravely injured, including four who suffered severe skull and brain damage, when heavy snow and ice fell from a roof on a crowd of customers waiting for vodka, Rabochaya Tribune reported. The newspaper did not say when the incident took place. The Russian Information Agency said that police on Nevsky Prospekt, a wide boulevard in the centre of former Leningrad, stood by as people shouted angrily against the policies of the Russian government.

Moscow and St. Petersburg have been among the Russian cities hardest hit by food shortages as agricultural regions and other former Soviet republics keep their production for themselves.

## Bahrain releases detained professor

BAHRAIN (R) — A Bahraini professor detained on Dec. 14 for criticising Gulf Arab governments was released on bail Saturday, relatives said. Sheikh Abdul Laif Al Mahmood, associate professor of Islamic Studies at Bahrain University, was held at Bahrain airport on his return from Kuwait. He had told a seminar in Kuwait that Gulf ruling families did not deserve their privileges and should not be free to use their countries' wealth as they chose. Official sources said he was detained because his speech "was contrary to the laws of the land, which require people to be respectful to the heads of state in the area." Prof. Mahmood was one of several professors from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries who criticised the 10-year-old alliance for failing to achieve progress at the seminar.

## Kabul rally disrupted

KABUL (R) — A rare rally in the Afghan capital by supporters of the former King Zahir Shah was disrupted by a rival group Saturday, as government security forces watched without intervening, witnesses said. The rally, organised by New York-based Afghan businessman Zia Khan Nasri, was the second in Kabul in favour of the former king during the 13-year Afghan civil war. The first such rally on Nov. 13 was broken up by plainclothes officers of the Khad state security police.

## Britain urges end to Somali violence

LONDON (R) — Britain called on Saturday for a ceasefire between the warring clans of Mogadishu to end what the United Nations has called a nightmare of violence in Somalia. The British government is deeply concerned at the continued fighting in the Somali capital.

Overseas Aid Minister Lynda Chalker said in a statement: "A United Nations report on Friday said as many as 20,000 people — mostly women and children — have been killed or wounded in a month of ethnic fighting in the Somali capital.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday called Mogadishu a "nightmare of violence" and said a team of U.N. aid workers was being sent into the city.

## Islamists set to control Algerian parliament

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Muslim fundamentalists are in position to gain control of parliament after taking an overwhelming lead in Algeria's first free legislative elections and gathering momentum for a second-round ballot.

They are also pressing for early presidential elections.

With results for 206 of the 430 seats, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had won outright victories in 167 races, leaving it 49 seats short of an absolute majority even before the Jan. 16 runoff vote.

Officials have three days to reveal results from Thursday's vote, but there was no word on final tallies would be announced.

Impact on life in Algeria from the stunning political turn was not immediately clear. The fundamentalists won support with a simple slogan: "No constitution and no laws. The only rule is the Koran and the law of God."

Some clerics speaking at Friday prayers called for Algerians to change their secular ways. Other spoke of tolerance and power sharing.

Provisional FIS leader Abdul Kader Hachani, asked whether the FIS could fail to take control of the next parliament, told a news conference Friday night it was "a probability which is absolutely ruled out."

"We shall demand presidential elections in order to stop parliament's prerogatives being curtailed," he added.

Earlier this week, the FIS called for presidential elections immediately after the second round of parliamentary voting.

President Chadli Benjedid, elected in 1988 for a third consecutive five-year term, has promised presidential elections before 1993 but he has not set a date.

The newspaper Le Telegramme de Brest evoked "boat people on the Mediterranean," while Le Figaro wrote of "tens of thousands of Algerians ... dis-

embarking in Marseille."

The reactions showed that, 29 years after Algerian nationalists expelled the French in a bloody eight-year war for liberation, relations between the two countries are tightly intertwined.

France is Algeria's largest trading partner, and French is widely spoken there. A law passed in Algiers this year making Arabic the sole official language brought protests from Paris.

An estimated 700,000 Algerians live in France, part of a community of Muslim immigrants numbering 3.5 billion. Their integration is the secular country's most explosive social issue.

The extreme-right National Front, which vows to expel foreigners from the country, plays on French fears that the country is being invaded by foreigners.

The front regularly scores 15 per cent in public opinion surveys. Other parties, even the governing Socialists, have vowed tougher immigration policies to blunt its appeal.

Bruno Megret, the National Front's number-two leader, said that the Algerian vote "is laden with threat and shows once more that the national front is right about immigration."

President Francois Mitterrand's government was silent, presumably waiting to see how the second round plays out.

But Michel Vauzelle, a leading politician of the governing Socialist Party, said that France could not turn its back on the sprawling country it ruled from 1830 until 1962.

"We have to see, once this party is in power, how it behaves," he said in an interview on Radio Monte Carlo.

A wave of immigrants would come at a bad time. Economic

(Continued on page 5)

## Barzani rejects reports of assassination attempts

SALAHDIN (R) — Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani denied Saturday media reports from Baghdad that he was the target of an assassination attempt last week.

The Bagdad daily Babil, which is run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, said on Saturday that gunmen loyal to rival Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani laid an ambush for Mr. Barzani in northern Iraq in the early hours of Dec. 18.

The report, which was later quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said the gunmen were caught by members of Mr. Barzani's Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP).

But Mr. Barzani told reporters at his headquarters in the Kurdish-run town of Salahuddin in northern Iraq that the story was not true.

"There has been no attempt on my life, therefore the report is absolutely baseless and untrue," he said.

Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), are at odds over a draft autonomy agreement with Baghdad. The KDP approves of it, while the PUK is against.

Mr. Barzani has been the target of several assassination attempts over the years.

An Iraqi opposition group, claiming to wield strong influence within Iraq, urged President Saddam on Saturday to step down peacefully in return for guarantees of safety for himself, his family and aides.

The Democratic Union for the Salvation of Iraq said in a statement sent to Reuters in Paris that if President Saddam did not take their call seriously and lost "this historic opportunity" he would eventually meet his "black fate."

## Jordan's Islamic movement jubilant

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Islamic movement, particularly the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, is jubilant over the sweeping victory that Islamists secured in the Algerian general elections and sees it as a forerunner of the emergence of the power of Islam through the ballot in the Arab World.

"No doubt the news of the victory of the Islamists in Algiers and the advances of the Islamic (Salvation) Front (FIS) is very positive and makes us very happy," said Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al Khalifeh, spiritual leader of the Brotherhood in Jordan.

The FIS, which challenged the traditionally dominant National Liberation Front (FLN) in last Thursday's elections, bagged 167 of the 206 seats where outright majority winners were declared Friday.

Winners of the rest of the seats in the 430-strong assembly will be determined in a second round next month, pitting the two leading candidates in the first round (see separate story).

"The Algerian government deserves gratitude for organising free and democratic elections that led to this happy result, which heartened all Muslims," Sheikh Khalifeh told the Jordan Times.

According to Sheikh Khalifeh, who guides the Brotherhood which won 22 seats in Jordan's first multi-party elections in 22 years in November 1989, the Islamic movement supports "democratic and free elections in all Arab countries."

We are also very happy that the Islamic movement is being buoyed by its counterpart's performance in Algeria and to press its hardline approach in parlia-

ment. Observers expected the movement to be buoyed by its counterpart's performance in Algeria and to press its hardline approach in parlia-

ment. In its final debates not compromise on the budgetary framework the government has already adopted, and that we do not end up with a larger budget deficit."

"If we do want to promote investment and growth — and we

have to do it if we are to absorb our immigrants successfully — we just cannot afford having an unstable economy, an economy with inflation, and an economy in which budget deficits are too large," he told Israel Radio.

Parliament must pass the 1992 budget before the year's end.

In September, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet approved a 79.1 billion shekel (\$33.9 billion) draft budget which would reduce the deficit to 6.3 per cent of gross domestic product from the 6.9 per cent forecast for 1991.

The central bank and finance ministry had recommended 5.5 per cent but the government refused to cut defence spending.

Inflation is hovering around 20 per cent. Unemployment is at a two-decade record, averaging 10.4 per cent in 1991, and is expected to hit 14 per cent in two

years.

Mr. Frenkel, who wants to eliminate the deficit by 1995, urged parliament to handle the 1992 budget responsibly. He said that increasing the deficit further would threaten efforts to contain inflation, create jobs and win external funds.

"We should not allow a larger budget deficit than what the government has already committed itself," Mr. Frenkel said.

"We are now seeing some slowdown in the economy — a slowdown that is a source of concern. That's why we have to be so mindful about the budget."

The full impact of the wave of immigration is expected to be felt in the next years. About 140,000 Soviet Jews moved to Israel in 1991 — against 184,000 last year — but officials still expect up to one million to arrive by 1995.

Israel, the biggest recipient of U.S. aid, has received no assurances it will get the loan guarantees it sorely needs to cut the cost of borrowing to finance the arrival.

President George Bush asked Congress to postpone a decision until early next year. Congress is likely to weigh economic policy and progress in Arab-Israeli peace talks when deciding.

Less than two weeks ago, Mr. Frenkel unveiled major reform in the foreign exchange rate mechanism to facilitate planning by the government, export industries and foreign investors.

The new system, which determines the shekel will fall nine per cent against a currency basket by the close of 1992, also put an end to sporadic hard currency speculation in the market.

Pressure on the shekel eased and interest rates fell.



KING, QUEEN RETURN: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home from London Saturday after a several-day private visit to the United Kingdom. King Hussein was received at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Ali Ben Al Hussein, several members of the royal family, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Adman Abu Odeh, and senior officials.

## Libya hits renewal of sanctions by Bush

ROME (Agencies) — The Libyan foreign ministry Saturday condemned the renewal of economic sanctions against Libya by the U.S. administration, which asserts Libya's regime still supports "terrorism."

A few days earlier, President George Bush sent the U.S. Congress a letter in which he stated Libya's government still makes use of and supports "international terrorism." The notice allows the renewal of economic sanctions, including a ban of U.S. business deals with Libya. The sanctions were adopted in January 1986.

Libya's foreign ministry, in a statement carried by the official Libyan news agency JANA, said the sanctions renewal was "further escalation of the arbitrary and tyrannical measures which contradict the principles of international law and the aims of the United Nations."

U.S. judicial authorities have been seeking the extradition of two Libyans accused of planning the 1988 bombing of Pan Am jet over Scotland, but Libya has withdrawn its troops.

Details emerging on documents signed by defence ministers of the new commonwealth reveal that the demand of Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan on forming their own armies was a major obstacle to forming a united armed forces.

Differences over the transfer of collective and state farms to private hands before the critical spring planting.

State and collective and state farms will receive land without charge based on the number of their members, but they will be required to reorganise as holding companies or cooperatives, the decree said, according to the Russian Information Agency.

The rest of the land will be placed in a land fund and sold on a competitive basis to anyone, but there will be a limit on how much can be purchased, the agency said.

The decree followed an order

## Russia committed to Mideast peace, will host multilaterals

### Jordan extends recognition to former Soviet republics

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet decided Saturday to recognise Russia and to maintain diplomatic relations with it at the level of embassies. It also decided to make Jordan's embassy in Moscow as the Kingdom's embassy to Russia.

The Cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, also approved the recognition of the independence of the other 10 former Soviet republics, which have agreed to form the commonwealth of independent states, in addition to Georgia which has not joined the commonwealth.

The Cabinet approved the appointment of Mohammad Souqour as secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development and approved several recommendations by the Investment Encouragement Committee. The Council of Ministers also approved setting up a committee which will carry out the duties of Maheb Municipal Council, which resigned recently, until municipal elections are held.

## Yeltsin consolidates grip on military, pushes reform campaign

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin roared ahead with reform Saturday, issuing an order to privatise state land, but his seizure of military hardware drew a warning from Ukraine. Fighting stopped in Georgia and escalated in Nagorno-Karabakh, where Russia had been resolved and he also would move to the Kremlin.

The decree introducing private land ownership allows for the transfer of collective and state farms to private hands before the critical spring planting.

Differences on economic, defence and foreign policy have troubled the new commonwealth of independent states in the week following its proclamation and four days after Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as Soviet president.

Mr. Yeltsin already has moved into Gorbachev's Kremlin offices, and on Saturday he

ended fences with his vice presi-

dent, Alexander Rutskoi, who had openly opposed Mr. Yeltsin's economic reform plan.

The Interfax news agency, quoting unidentified sources close to Mr. Rutskoi, said his differences with Mr. Yeltsin had been resolved and he also would move to the Kremlin.

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## Islamic success in Algeria to send shockwaves through region

By John Baggaley  
Reuters

ALGIERS — Signs of a fundamentalist landslide in Algeria's general election are bound to send shockwaves through other North African countries, southern Europe and wherever Muslim rulers do not base their legitimacy on an appeal to Islamic militancy.

The first results show the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) winning more than 80 per cent of the 206 seats so far decided in the 430-member parliament.

Seats where there is no outright winner will be decided on Jan. 16 in run-offs between the two leading candidates.

The vote for the FIS, whose top leaders have been in jail since June, far outstripped predictions and marked an extraordinary turnaround for a movement which some said had lost its way since winning local elections in 1990.

The front, led temporarily by Abdal Kader Hachani, waited until Dec. 14, nine days into campaigning, before deciding against boycotting the election on Thursday.

One government minister recently told Western diplomats he

expected FIS to win 30 per cent of the seats in parliament. Diplomats said no party would win an absolute majority.

The result suggests the election was one of the fairest ever in the Arab World, the area of the world where democratic principles have had the most trouble taking root.

Sudan had free and fair elections in 1986 but the government which emerged lost power to a military junta three years later.

Jordan, Egypt and Yemen have liberalised their electoral systems. In Jordan, the most liberal, candidates stood as independents, not as members of political parties.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the most traditional of the Arab World's fundamentalist movements, scored well in Jordan and now has a say in making and breaking governments.

But the Algerian case marks the first time an Islamic movement has a good chance of taking power in the Arab World through democratic elections.

The repercussions will be felt in neighbouring Tunisia and Morocco, where fundamentalists are working underground against

the political systems inherited from colonial rulers.

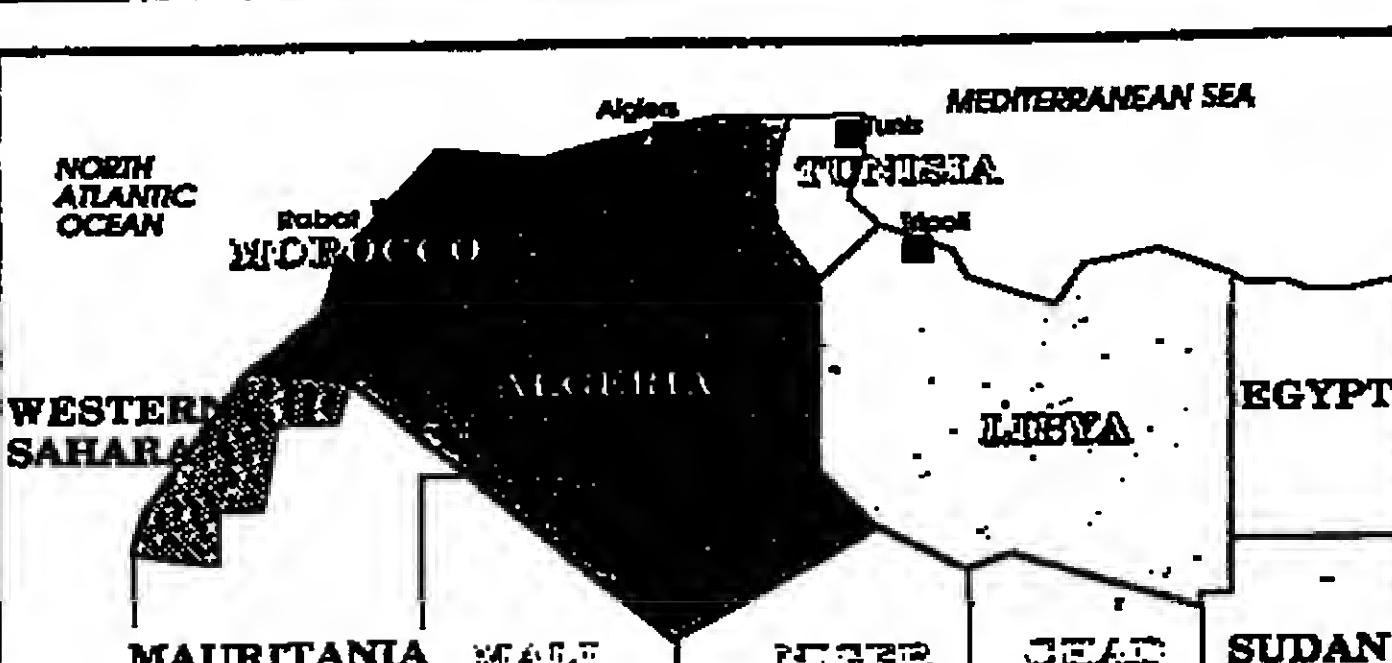
In Tunisia, President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali has followed in the footsteps of his predecessor, Habib Bourguiba, who used the law to crush the challenge from the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI).

Mr. Ben Ali, who came to power in 1987, at first played with the idea of legalising the MTI's successor, the fundamentalist Nahdha (Renaissance) movement, but he later closed down its newspaper and detained hundreds of members.

Nahdha leader Rachid Ghannouchi, who chose exile before the crackdown on his movement, has been a frequent visitor to Algiers and has good contacts with the FIS leadership.

The main fundamentalist opposition movement in Morocco, known as Adl Wal Ihsan (Justice and Charity), was never as powerful as the Nahdha. The government of the conservative monarchy banned the movement in January 1990.

Libya, sharing a long border with Algeria, has its own Muslim fundamentalist underground but little is known of its activities



beyond Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi's occasional references to acts of violence it has committed.

Many Arab governments, with ideologies based on secular Arab nationalism, have justified their suppression of Islamic opponents by saying that parties based on religion are incompatible with multiparty democracy.

French commentators, who watch Maghreb politics closely because of its impact on France's large community of North African immigrants, have also argued that parties which believe in absolute truths can have no place in a system where laws are man-made through a balance between competing interests.

Critics of the FIS inside Algeria have used anti-democratic remarks by its leaders in their campaign against the movement. Ali Belhadj, the imprisoned deputy to FIS President Abassi

Madani, said at Friday prayers last year, "Nationalism and democracy are terms which have no meaning. It is Islam and the Sunna (the tradition of the Prophet) which unite us."

Prominent FIS member Mohammad Hounein told worshippers this Friday that other parties should announce their "repentance" and that people who did not vote for the FIS would go to hell.

After the FIS victory in local elections in 1990, French politicians said the result was troubling on two counts.

An eventual FIS government in Algiers might both radicalise the 800,000 Algerians living in France and drive thousands of Algerian moderates to seek exile in Europe, they said.

Spain and Italy, also the targets of economic migration from depressed North Africa, feel some pressures to a lesser extent.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Shamir expects normal relations with China

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Friday that he expects Israel will have diplomatic ties with China soon. Mr. Shamir's spokesman said, "He (Mr. Shamir) said he hopes and expects that in the framework of recent developments, relations will be normalised with China in the near future," Ebud Gol told Reuters. Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang made a confidential visit to Israel last week and met Mr. Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy. Israel Radio said at the time that China had urged the visit be kept secret but Mr. Levy disclosed details about it to a parliamentary committee. Defence Minister Moshe Arens secretly visited China in early November, according to news about the visit, the first ever by an Israeli minister to China, was suppressed by the Israeli military censor. A high-level Israeli trade delegation made an official visit to China immediately after Mr. Arens' trip. The delegation included Dan Shomron, head of Israel military industries and a former army chief of staff. China wants to attend multilateral Middle East peace talks in Moscow at the end of January. Israel is widely reported to have made Chinese participation conditional on normalising relations between the two countries.

The Crown Prince conveyed to the ambassador Jordan's best wishes to the commonwealth of independent states set up by former Soviet Republics and expressed hope that the commonwealth will pursue spearhead efforts towards achieving a lasting Middle East peace.

The Prince also expressed hope that Russia will maintain the strongest possible ties with Jordan. The three-colour Russian flag flies over the former Soviet embassy in Amman which has been taken over by the Republic of Russia in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Russian flag was hoisted Friday evening by Ambassador Grigadonov. In published remarks Saturday, Mr. Grigadonov said that he was assuming the role of ambassador of Russia as well as the new commonwealth of the independent states.

The ambassador said Russia and the new commonwealth will maintain the strongest ties with Jordan and will seek to promote bilateral ties at all levels. He said Russia will continue to promote peaceful coexistence all over the world and will call for solving world disputes, including the Middle East conflict, through peaceful means.

## Russia

(Continued from page 1)

ing held at the Royal Court, Petra said. The views of Russia and Jordan are almost similar regarding world issues, a fact which served as a basis for cooperation in the past and which would continue in the future, the ambassador said.

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## Yeltsin

(Continued from page 1)

already bare shops for cheaper goods. They and other republics also worry about a shortage of rubles.

Compounding the economic discord are differences over the new commonwealth's defence and foreign policies, which will be the subject of high-level Monday in Minsk, the capital of Belarus.

Defence ministers of the commonwealth signed documents on military cooperation on Friday, which provides for a joint rather than a unified command hoped for by Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, the interim head of commonwealth forces.

Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova insisted on forming their own armies, forcing modifications in Marshal Shaposhnikov's concept. Marshal Shaposhnikov said those members entering the joint command will share military financing, but those that do not must pay for their own armed forces.

The commonwealth also has to work out what to do with Soviet military hardware. Russia has taken control over the largest and most sophisticated aircraft carrier. The move drew a protest from Ukraine, where the vessel was stationed before it was transferred to Russia.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who met Friday with commanders of the prestigious Black Sea fleet, said Saturday he was "firmly convinced that Ukraine is and should be a maritime power," TASS reported.

Ms. Kravchuk also said the commonwealth would not play a role in foreign policy. "We do not intend to form any commonwealth structures to speak on its behalf on the international scene," TASS reported.

The commonwealth nations have agreed to coordinate their foreign policies, but each member can set its own international course.

Mr. Yeltsin, whose government is the central pillar of the commonwealth, has taken control of most Soviet troops and vowed not to use them in hotspots like the Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh and Georgia.

## Malnourished children fill Baghdad hospital wards

By Jane Arraf  
Reuters

BAGHDAD — "She looks better since I brought her here," said Aziza Duha, holding her emaciated baby, whose feet have turned blue and her hair red from lack of protein.

In the biggest hospital in Saddam City, home to more than one million Baghdad's poor, doctors try to prevent children dying of hunger in a country rich with oil.

"I was feeding her biscuits and tea," Ms. Duha said this week, sitting on an iron bed in a ward crowded with young, desperate mothers and their motionless infants, who have the distended stomachs and skeletal frames

of the severely malnourished.

Ms. Duha, a 40-year-old mother of five, said her husband was away in the military, leaving them to survive on limited government rations of flour, sugar and other supplies. "He has to spend most of his salary on him self," she said.

Although Baghdad is allowed by the U.N. to import food and medicine, it says it has no way to buy supplies while foreign governments continue to freeze billions of dollars in assets.

Throughout Saddam City's Al Qadissiya hospital, black-robed women roam the halls pleading for scarce stocks of medicine for their children.

"Doctor, please," says one woman, crying and clutching the chief paediatrician as she waves a paper with the name

of an antibiotic in limited supply.

One woman, 25-year-old Rasma Hohas, holds the hand of her mildly diabetic seven-year-old daughter. She has not been able to get insulin for days.

Another runs through the corridors waiting and beating her chest in grief after learning that her 32-year-old brother has died of tuberculosis, leaving seven children.

His doctor, Imad Arawee, said Ahmad Lufta had no immunity because he had not been able to get regular treatment for a year. He weighed 40 kilos when he died.

The Gulf war, subsequent rebellions in the north and south, and the U.N. sanctions have played havoc with

Iraq's once-efficient health system.

Relief agencies, which are victims of flagging international public interest in Iraq, have not been able to fill the gap.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which runs one of the biggest medical programmes, has met less than half its target for donations to Iraq.

UNICEF says the death rate for children under five has doubled since before the Gulf war, some from severe forms of malnutrition that had not been seen in Iraq for two decades.

Al Qadissiya's records show that 43 per cent of patients who died in October were victims of malnutrition, compared to 10 per cent in the same month last year.

## Israel said planning airlift if trouble in former Soviet Union

BOSTON (R) — Israel is planning a huge airlift of Soviet Jews should another coup or a civil war take place in the former Soviet Union, the Boston Globe has reported.

One Israeli official estimated that 50,000-100,000 Soviet Jews a month could be evacuated, as happened when Ethiopian Jews were brought to Israel earlier this year, the Globe said.

A major component of the planned airlift would be direct flights to Israel from the ex-Soviet republics, where 60 Jewish Agency staffers are working with officials of those governments in 27 different locations, the Globe said.

"No one can guarantee that there will not be another coup or civil war," Jewish Agency Director Simcha Dinitz was quoted as telling the Globe.

"Whenever there is disintegration, minorities are in jeopardy. We are very concerned about the Jews, especially in outlying areas. There are 200,000 Jews in the Muslim republics, for example," Mr. Dinitz said.

"Between the economic and constitutional difficulties, we must prepare for the worst scenario. We are preparing an infrastructure so that every Jew in the former Soviet Union can leave," he said.

Moroney could not be reached for comment, but a relative at her home in Salem, Massachusetts, said she is being kept informed of developments by U.S. officials.

"We can take out between 50,000 and 100,000 a month," Mr. Dinitz said. "Arrangements have been made. We have a planes, and we can rent more planes. We took 15,000 out of Ethiopia in two days, so the sky is the limit."

In Israel, Mr. Dinitz later told Reuters his statements had been misinterpreted.

"I said that Israel is capable of getting more than 50,000 Jews out a month. This doesn't mean we are making preparations. It means that with the direct flights we are ready at any time to bring a large number of Jews to Israel," he said.

Direct flights for Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union to Israel were inaugurated earlier this year. Until then, most of the immigrants reached Israel through Eastern Europe.

Earlier on Friday Mr. Dinitz told a news conference 1.2 million Jews from all 15 republics of the former Soviet Union want to come to Israel and that 105,000 have acquired exit permits.

## Philippines to buy Israeli-made fighter jets

MANILA (R) — The Philippines wants to buy 18 Israeli Kfir fighter jets and scrap plans to buy American F-16s because they are too expensive for the cash-strapped country. Manila's air force chief said Saturday. Major-General Loven Abadia told reporters the Israeli planes would cost only \$12.5 million, compared to \$630 million needed to buy the F-16s. Each Kfir jet costs \$7 million while the F-16 fetches \$35 million apiece. Gen. Abadia said. The Israeli planes are badly needed to replace the obsolete F-5 jets that guard Philippine airspace, especially after U.S. forces withdrew from their last military base in the country in 1992, he said. American forces will pull out from Subic Bay naval station northwest of Manila by the end of next year after talks on a three-year phased withdrawal collapsed on Friday. Philippine military officials say Manila must modernise its navy and air force to avoid falling further behind its rapidly arming southeast Asian neighbours. Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia have F-16 fighter-bombers while Malaysia has bought a fleet of modern gunboats armed with missiles to protect its coastline. The Kfir, which has a top speed of Mach 2.3, can be armed with missiles and will bolster the Philippine military's modernisation programme, the officials said.

Iran's defence minister visits Qatar

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani Saturday discussed ways of boosting military cooperation with Iran's Defence Minister Akbar Torkan. The Qatari News Agency said the two also reviewed regional and Islamic issues. It gave no further details. Mr. Torkan, on his first visit to the Gulf state, arrived in Doha Saturday, two days after Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders ended a three-day summit in Kuwait. The GCC, an economic and political alliance formed in 1981 soon after the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war, groups Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Iran has been seeking to play a greater role in Gulf affairs. GCC leaders, winding up their first summit since Kuwait was liberated from Iraqi occupation, made only a brief mention of the Islamic republic, welcoming "positive developments" in bilateral relations which they wished to see further improved. Relations between Iran and Arab states, which generally supported Baghdad in its 1980-88 war with Iraq, improved dramatically after Iraq invaded Kuwait last year.

**JORDAN TIMES**

TEL: 667171

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Information supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Yesterdays high temperatures: Amman 8, Aqaba 18. Humidity readings:

Amman 96 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

Wind speeds: Amman 10, Aqaba 10.

Cloudiness: Amman 80, Aqaba 80.

Humidity: Amman 96, Aqaba 96.

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Wind speeds: Amman 10, Aqaba 10.</p

## Low depression to bring more rain and snow

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and the other countries in the eastern Mediterranean region will face yet another low depression on Tuesday, bringing more rain with snow on high mountains, according to the Department of Meteorology.

A department official said Sunday and Monday are expected to witness fair weather with temperatures rising to 11 degrees and then 12 degrees Celsius. But on Tuesday, the country will be affected by a depression with cold polar winds blowing towards Jordan, bringing more rain, hail and probably snow, the official said.

The rain is expected to increase the amounts of rain water which has already been collected behind dams for irrigation in the Jordan Valley.

According to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary

## TV and radio committee formed to choose programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Broadcasting and Television Corporation (JBTC) has recently formed a special committee grouping experts from both the radio and television stations to select the various programmes to be aired on Radio Jordan and Jordan Television as of January 1992, according to Radi Al Khas, director general of JBTC.

Mr. Al Khas said the committee will ask local, Arab and international companies to send samples of their productions to the committee, which will then select the most suitable ones for airing on Jordan TV and radio.

The corporation will also form monitoring committees which will be entrusted with watching the selected programmes and making their judgement on their suitability for airing. These committees will group experts from outside

the corporation who will be replaced on a periodic basis.

However, those people will be assisted by people from Radio Jordan and TV. The committees will make recommendations on the suitability or unsuitability of programmes selected, may delete certain scenes or shots — particularly those conflicting with Jordanian traditions and values.

In another step to organise the process of selecting and purchasing TV programmes and series, which will be aired as of Jan. 1, 1992, the corporation also composed a programme procurement committee, headed by the TV director. The committee includes a representative for the Audit Bureau, head of the Financial Section at the corporation, heads of the first and second channels and head of the Control Section.

## Man found not guilty of manslaughter but sentenced for using illegal gun

By Ahmad Kreishan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Criminal Court in Amman has sentenced a man who killed another man in self-defence to a three month in jail because he used an unlicensed gun in the course of defending himself.

According to the court verdict, Mahmoud Saleh Hussein Al Abed was found guilty not because he killed a man who had entered his brother's home, but because he killed the thief with a gun for which he had no licence.

The thief, identified as Harb Abdul Jall, had entered the flat by climbing to the roof of a neighbouring building and dropping into the veranda of

the flat. He then forced open its aluminium door, according to the court hearings.

The thief had broken several doors of the flat, which was not inhabited at the time, making a lot of noise and awakening Mr. Abed, the owner's brother, who lived in the lower flat, according to the lawyers for the defendant.

They said that Mr. Jall attacked Mr. Abed with a knife when he was surprised. Mr. Abed shot at the thief in self defence.

The court also ordered the confiscation of the gun but acquitted Mr. Abed from the charge of manslaughter.

According to court sources, the case has now been referred to the Court of Cassation for endorsement.

## Ministry trying to raise funds for environmental strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is holding contacts with international organisations to raise funds to finance projects included in the national environment strategy. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Razzaq Tubaishat said Saturday.

The minister made the announcement at a meeting by the Higher Steering Committee for the Implementation of the National Environment Strategy on the Environment due to be held in Brazil in June of 1992.

At the meeting, the national strategy was discussed, with attention focusing on an informational plan to explain to the public the objectives of this strategy. The meeting also discussed coordination between the committee and the various concerned government departments to ensure the implementation of the plan.

Dr. Tubaishat told the meeting that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

(IUCN) has been informed of Jordan's plans to implement the strategy and was requested to provide assistance to the country and finance this vital scheme, the minister said.

The national strategy has been prepared in cooperation with the IUCN and with financial help from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

According to Dr. Tubaishat, the national strategy will be ready for implementation before convening of the World Conference on the Environment due to be held in Brazil in June of 1992.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Art and ornamentation exhibition by Sabah Hadidi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition by Jumana Al Husseini at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

### FILM

★ Feature film entitled "Twelve Angry Men" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.

## Princess Basma opens education centre

AOABA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday opened a special education centre affiliated to the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Aqaba.

GUVS Executive Board Chairman Abdullah Khatib and Ahmad Sabah, chairman of Al Thaghir Society for the Handicapped, which will supervise the works of the centre, delivered speeches praising Princess Basma's role in the field of voluntary and social work.

They said the centre, which cost JD 110,000 will provide services to 60 mentally retarded persons in Aqaba District. The centre is the 10th of its kind established by GUVS.

Princess Basma later laid the foundation stone for the Aqaba Islamic Charitable Society building which will be used as a girls traditional handicrafts training centre. The building is also established by GUVS.

## University of Jordan to begin awarding bachelors degree in midwifery

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Nursing Faculty at the University of Jordan which was established in 1973 will introduce a programme for a bachelors degree in midwifery to chart national policies on training nurses and employing them in hospitals and other centres. Dr. Abdul Rahim said.

Dr. Abdul Rahim also pointed out that the current nursing programmes introduced by the Ministry of Education in 1974 are no longer capable of coping with the needs of the present and cannot be considered as a real profession.

She said that only through university level education can nursing be considered as a profession. For this reason, she said, Muta University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology are following the University of Jordan's example by establishing nursing faculties to award bachelors degrees.

Apart from the University of Jordan, several nursing colleges exist in the Kingdom. These colleges, which are run by the government, are the Jordan College of Nursing in Amman, the Irbid College of Nursing and Midwifery, and Zarqa College of Nursing and Midwifery, she said.

Health Ministry sources had reported that some 500 non-Jordanian nurses are still employed in Jordan's private and public sectors hospitals.

Currently, the Faculty of Nurs-



HRH Princess Basma

## Amman-Zarqa railway proposal studied

By Maha Addasi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The primary stages of a study to reactivate the use of the railway between Amman and Zarqa have been finalised, according to the Director of Railway Transportation Yahya Jdeitawi.

Interior Minister Jawdat Al Sboul recently recommended this idea to the government as a method to reduce traffic accidents and pollution caused by traffic, Mr. Jdeitawi, who is also an engineer, said.

Princess Basma also toured several of the society's schools and met representatives of women societies in the city. Princess Basma discussed with them the role of women in serving the local community, their contribution to voluntary and social work and comprehensive development process.

Princess Basma also attended the Aqaba Islamic Society's celebration of its 25th anniversary.

The society's chairman, Nasrat Al Beitar, presented Her Royal Highness with the society's shield in appreciation of her efforts in the field of social work.

Princess Basma distributed awards to several of the society's kindergarten and school principals.

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## Crown Prince reviews relations, peace process with Bulgarian official



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meets with visiting Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Stoian Ganev (Petra photo)

and vegetables so as to adjust the balance of trade between the two countries.

In reference to the current Middle East situation, Mr. Lawzi spoke in detail about the Gulf Crisis, its consequences and the Palestine issue as well as Jordan's burdens resulting from these issues. Mr. Lawzi also spoke about the plight of the Palestinian people and Israel's repressive measure. He welcomed Bulgaria's offer to host the multilateral peace talks with Israel.

Mr. Ganev and Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour earlier held formal talks on means of increasing the volume of trade and bolstering economic relations between the two countries.

For his part, Mr. Ganev expressed his country's appreciation of Jordan's positive role, describing it as a constructive role helping to enhance the cause of peace.

Economic cooperation between Bulgaria and Jordan and the question of adjusting the balance of trade between them were the main topics discussed Saturday between Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker and Mr. Ganev.

The balance of trade between the two countries is in favour of Bulgaria and discussion covered means of increasing the volume of Jordanian exports to Bulgaria.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber as well as the delegation accompanying the Bulgarian minister on his visit to Jordan.

Mr. Ganev, who is accompanied by a five-member delegation on his four-day stay in Jordan, was received earlier by Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament for a discussion on bilateral cooperation in Parliamentary affairs and the Middle East situation.

Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi welcomed the Bulgarian minister, paying tribute to the friendly ties between Jordan and Bulgaria. Mr. Lawzi expressed hope that Bulgaria would buy more of Jordan's phosphate, cement, potash, industrial products

and vegetables so as to adjust the balance of trade between the two countries.

Mr. Ganev reiterated his country's offer to Arab and Israeli parties to hold their multilateral talks in Sofia if they decide not to meet in Moscow. He said Bulgaria was keen on ensuring peace, stability and security in the Middle East region.

Mr. Ganev and Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour earlier held formal talks on means of increasing the volume of trade and bolstering economic relations between the two countries.

Dr. Ensour stressed the need for the implementation of joint Bulgarian-Jordanian agreements which called for increased trade of diversified products and the utilisation of the free zones in Jordan which offer privileges for investors. He called for a meeting as soon as possible for a joint committee to carry out these agreements.

Dr. Ensour also invited Bulgaria to join Jordan in carrying out joint ventures to produce commodities in demand by the current peace process.

Mr. Ganev extended an invitation to Mr. Lawzi to visit Bulgaria at the head of a parliamentary delegation.

The Bulgarian official later met Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Dr. Abdul Latif Arabyat and discussed with him democratic changes in Bulgaria and Jordan in the past years. Dr. Arabyat invited the Bulgarian parliament to send a delegation to visit Jordan and discuss par-

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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## Where do we go from here?

**MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISTS** around the world must be joyous at the stunning victory scored by their Algerian counterparts. The results of the first round of the Algerian elections and the victory of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) are a strong message that must be ringing alarm bells all over the world. What makes the Algerian experience especially important is the fact that this will be the first time anywhere that Islamists reach power through elections. What would follow, either domestically in Algeria itself, regionally in the Arab World, or in the world at large, is any one's guess. Events of the last decade have shown the impossibility of predicting with any near certainty the trend that governs domestic, regional or global changes. However, the Algerian Islamists are expected to immediately introduce legislation that would Islamise Algeria. On the North African region's front, the FIS is sure to press its partners in the Arab Maghreb Union for increased Islamisation. They would naturally be expected to influence and help fellow Islamists in both Morocco and Tunisia. Although it assured the West — and France in particular — that it will not opt for confrontation, the FIS is also certain to press the issue of Algerian immigrants in France, oil and gas sales to Europe and North-South topics in general.

In the meantime, Arab and European governments must be apprehensive of the FIS win. Would Algerians usher in a new way of interpreting Islam or would they be emulating the Islamic revolution in Iran? What is their domestic and foreign policy agenda? What would be their effect, negative or positive, on Islamic movements world-wide? These are only a few of the questions that only time will provide answers for. From now until then, there is a lot of work to be done both in the region and in the world at large to ensure that the new world order would not again be polarised, either between North and South or between Islam and the West. Instead of heading towards conflict — domestic, regional or global — peoples and nations should opt for dialogue, cooperation and reconciliation. The comeback of religion has been mitigated by injustices and imbalances created by the new defunct post-World War II order. Unless those injustices and imbalances are addressed, and strongly, the future will at best be dim.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the Soviet Union has collapsed as a superpower confronting the United States, Washington feels it has the whole world area for itself, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The Americans have flexed their muscles before the whole world by first crushing the Iraqi military might and by imposing a blockade on the Iraqi people whom they are starving and causing the Arab region a great deal of suffering, said the paper. Being alone in the arena, the United States is not likely to find an equal opponent for a long time to come and not likely to give up its arrogance as a superpower ruling the world, said the paper. What is more likely to happen, though, is that the United States, not being confronted any longer, would soon be a victim of its own power and victim of the so-called new world order, the paper predicted. This non-homogeneous nation cannot maintain its strength for ever in the absence of a rival; and the American nation's ambitions are likely to end soon, the paper added. It said that the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern European bloc is more likely to create a climate for new wars whose consequences are difficult to imagine at this point in time.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Saturday called for the revival of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Yemen. Since the summer of 1990, this council has been frozen but the four-member states did not officially announce its demise which means there exists some life in it, said Fahd Al Fanek. The writer suggested that Syria and Sudan be allowed to join the group of four to help end differences among Arab states. Indeed, he said, the revival of the ACC should be considered as the only means of overcoming the serious consequences of the Gulf crisis, helping to keep the Arab countries together and enhancing the Arab League. The writer said the revival of the ACC would help end the embargo on Iraq and help protect Iraq from disintegrating and help it confront the enemies of the Arab Nation surrounding Iraq. Once the ACC has been revived and expanded, it would group 60 per cent of the Arab World, forming a major economic power in the region, the writer continued. He said it is time that the freezing of this important economic grouping ended for the best interest of all the Arab countries.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Adjustment programme tested and proved effective

THE most credible evidence to the success of the economic adjustment programme agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is that the programme was tested before and proved to be very effective when it was implemented for the first time in 1989.

In order for us to judge the success, or lack of it, of this programme, we have to recall the objectives of the programme. The programme was meant to correct the distortions in the Jordanian economy, such as the excessive private and public consumption relative to the gross domestic product (GDP) and the resulting weakness of domestic savings, the large deficit in the central government budget, and the acute deficit in the current account of the balance of payments, especially the deficit in the commodity balance of trade. We shall examine the performance of the programme in each of these three scores by comparing the outcome in the programme's first year (1989) with what was prevailing in the previous year (1988), before the programme was introduced.

Statistics of actual performance indicate a definite success beyond doubt. The public consumption as a share of the gross domestic product declined from 26.2 per cent to 25.2 per cent. The share of the private consumption also dropped from 73.7 per cent to 69.6 per cent. Thus the public and private sectors combined were able under the programme to lower the share of aggregate consumption in the country from 99.9 per cent of the GDP in 1988, to 94.8 per cent in 1989. The domestic savings thus sprang from a negligible 0.1 per cent of the GDP in 1988, to a respectable 5.2 per cent in 1989. The programme overcame the first category of distortions with flying colours.

As far as deficit in the budget, before foreign grants, is concerned, the figure declined from JD 531.4 million, or 24 per cent of the GDP in 1988, to JD 470.9 million, or 19.8 per cent of the GDP in 1989, an achievement that is worth praising. The fiscal deficit, after grants, declined in turn from JD 336.6 million, or 15.2 per cent of the GDP, in 1988 to JD 166.6 million, or 7 per cent of the GDP in 1989.

Finally, when it comes to the balance of payment, we find that the improvement was remarkable. The deficit in the commodity balance of trade decreased from \$899 million in 1988 to \$733 million in 1989. At the same time, the deficit in the current account of the balance of payments dropped from \$288 million which formed 4.8 per cent of GDP in 1988, to \$104 million which formed 2.5 per cent of GDP in 1989.

These were the outstanding structural accomplishments of the economic adjustment programme in its very first year. Add to all that what the Jordanian people remember very well in restoration of stability of the Jordanian dinar exchange rate not only on paper, but also in the market place, the rebuilding of the Central Bank's reserves of foreign exchange which reached a point below zero at the first quarter of 1989, i.e. when the programme was adopted in April 1989.

The Gulf crisis interrupted and consequently suspended a very successful process of economic structural reform. It is high time to resume this operation now, without hesitation.

with shocking regularity. Politics became even uglier than usual.

Next to the war and the economy, no event captured Americans' attention as much as President Bush's nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. What fascinated Americans was not that the conservative Thomas was only the second black nominated to the court. Rather, it was a remarkable televised Senate hearing into allegations that Mr. Thomas once sexually harassed an aide, Anita Hill.

In the end, the Senate sided with Mr. Thomas and confirmed his nomination. Americans were disgusted — either by the confirmation or by the way the Senate handled it, or both.

For sheer revulsion, though, nothing compared with horrifying killings in Wisconsin and in Texas.

Jeffrey L. Dahmer, a 31-year-old factory worker, was charged with 17 counts of murder after the dismembered bodies of 11 people were found in his Milwaukee apartment. Other bodies were found elsewhere, Dahmer's victims over the years.

George Hennard killed 23 people in a single 10-minute burst of rage. It happened in a Texas cafeteria on Oct. 16, and was the worst mass killing in U.S. history. Hennard took a 24th life as well in his own.

Among the notables who died in 1991 were Norway's King Olav, prima ballerina Dame Margot Fonteyn, jazz giants Stan Getz and Miles Davis, singer-actor Yves Montand, and Nobel prize-winning author Isaac Bashevis Singer.

Newspaper tycoon Robert Maxwell died mysteriously when he fell — or so investigators said — off his yacht. His son inherited a financial nightmare, and soon Maxwell's holdings were in bankruptcy.

Suddenly, the world was a much different place. When the United States helped convene Middle East peace talks, its almost-silent partner was its old foe, the Soviet Union.

The Mideast became a less forbidding place in other ways, too.

On Dec. 4, Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson was released after almost seven years as a hostage of extremist Shiite Muslims. He was the last of the American captives in Lebanon.

British and French hostages were released earlier, but two Germans remained in captivity. Israel, meanwhile, kept hundreds of Arabs imprisoned in southern Lebanon.

The U.S. economy slumped into a recession and stayed there. The electorate became angry, resentful. Incumbents lost elections through sex between men and women.

“Evil” “magic” Johnson, superstar of the Los Angeles Lakers, personalised the epidemic. He announced in November he was retiring from professional basketball because he had been infected with the AIDS virus from his sexual encounters with various women.

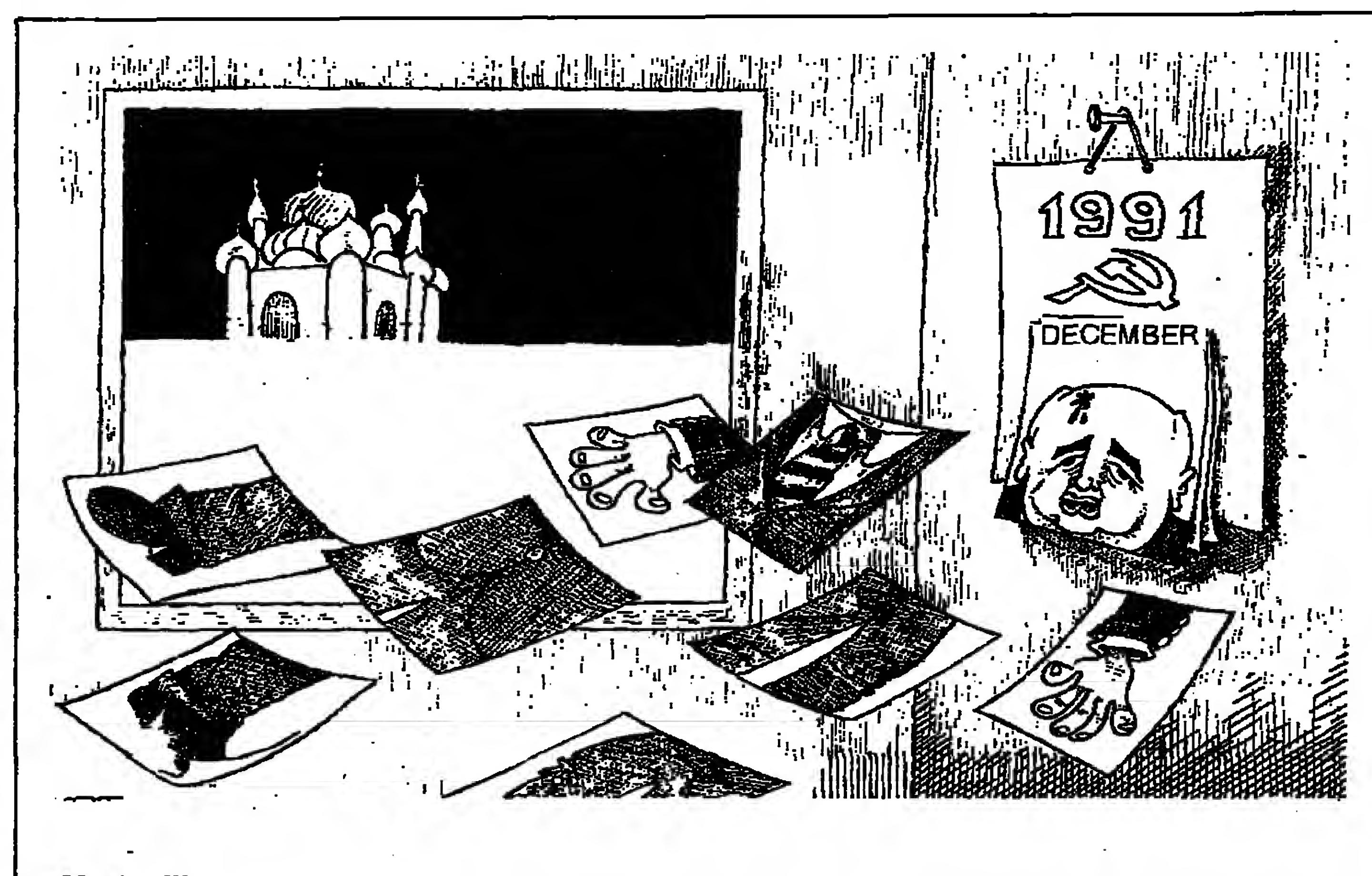
their fears have an enormous psychological impact: roughly two thirds of the work force is made up by white-collar workers.

In previous slumps, the economy produced enough new jobs to absorb most of those thrown out of work. This time, tens of thousands of jobs simply disappear and no new jobs spring up.

“This recession really is different,” said Jerome Levy, who chairs the economic forecasting centre attached to Bard College in New York. “This is not the typical post-World War II ‘inventory recession’ or some other short-term disruption.”

Mr. Levy calls the present downturn a “contained depression” because of the need to absorb excess capacity and excess debt as opposed to excess inventory. They are more depression than recession phenomena.

However, there are now safeguards in place to prevent a 1930s-style depression, he said.



M. KAHIL

were fleeing President Saddam's forces.

But President Saddam held on. He had staying power, which set him apart from some other world leaders.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide was sworn in as Haiti's first democratically elected president on Feb. 7 and was sent packing in a military coup Sept. 30. Soldiers took over the governments of Thailand and Mali. Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam resigned under pressure and fled his country.

French Prime Minister Michel Rocard was replaced by the country's first woman premier, Edith Cresson. India's Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a human bomb — a suicide assassin who brought explosives to a campaign rally.

Nowhere was the grip on power more tenuous, or the stakes more profound, than in the Soviet Union.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev was a hero outside his country, but the world's respect didn't count for much at home.

As 1991 began, he found his authority being challenged from every corner.

The Baltic republics were pressing for independence. Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin was openly challenging Mr. Gorbachev's authority in Moscow. Ordinary Soviet citizens were growing increasingly impatient with Mr. Gorbachev's inability to turn around their economy.

In June, Mr. Yeltsin visited Washington and told congressional leaders, “the people of Russia are ready for democracy, ready for reform.”

What they got, at least for a few horrifying days in August, was something entirely different.

On Aug. 19, while Mr. Gorbachev was on vacation, old-guard communists seized power in a coup. Mr. Gorbachev was placed under house arrest — although that isn't what Soviet citizens were told.

“I should say that Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is now on vacation,” Vice President Gennady Yanayev, one of the coup-makers, told the nation. “...he is very tired after all these years.”

The coup leaders failed to arrest Mr. Yeltsin, who marshaled the forces of non-violent resistance and forced the plotters, in the end, to back down.

Mr. Gorbachev was freed. The Communist Party was cast into disrepute and despair. The world's oldest communist system was ushered out, a red shooting star that had lasted 74 years.

By mid-December, Mr. Gorbachev had agreed to Mr. Yeltsin's demands for a new, loosely united commonwealth of independent states — the old republics.

The Soviet Union, Ronald Reagan's “evil empire,” the nation against which the United States had measured itself for decades, was simply vanishing off the face of the earth.

“There will be no more red flag,” Mr. Yeltsin declared.

Elsewhere in what had been communist East Europe, Yugoslavia became mired in a civil war that cost thousands of lives in the rival republics of Serbia and Croatia. The Warsaw Pact — communism's answer to NATO — dissolved itself.

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“This recession really is different,” said Jerome Levy, who chairs the economic forecasting centre attached to Bard College in New York. “This is not the typical post-World War II ‘inventory recession’ or some other short-term disruption.”

Mr. Levy calls the present downturn a “contained depression” because of the need to absorb excess capacity and excess debt as opposed to excess inventory. They are more depression than recession phenomena.

However, there are now safeguards in place to prevent a 1930s-style depression, he said.

# As recession goes on, Americans lose faith in future

By Bernd Debusmann

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States, troubled by a recession that refuses to go away, has slid into its deepest crisis of confidence in more than three decades.

According to a series of public opinion polls, the latest released this week, most Americans believe the economy is going from bad to worse, fear for their jobs and feel their standard of living is in danger.

American students no longer take it for granted that they will live better than their parents, a notion that has been part of the “American dream” through most of U.S. history.

Unemployment has overtaken drugs and crime as the public's main concern as U.S. companies announced layoffs at the rate of 2,600 a day, many of them affecting middle class employees bypassed in previous economic

downturns.

In the 1981-1982 slump, white-collar jobs actually increased — by around 750,000 — while blue-collar workers were laid off.

Some economists compare the present sense of pessimism and gloom with 1938, a year which saw the first sharp recession after World War II. Others say they cannot remember any time of such malaise.

“There is... a deep-seated concern which I must say to you I have not seen in my lifetime,” Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, told Congress last week.

British broadcaster Alistair Cooke, who has chronicled the United States for more than 40 years in a weekly “Letter from America,” said recently he could not remember a time when Americans “complained more, in a tone close to despair.”

To crank up the economy, the Federal Reserve cut interest rates to their lowest level in 27 years, a

move which won applause from experts and the Bush administration and sent the stock market sharply higher.

The cut, announced the same day General Motors said it was dismissing 74,000 workers, failed to impress the average American. An opinion poll taken two days after the rate reduction showed that two-thirds of the public continued to believe the economy was worsening.

The survey, conducted for Money Magazine and ABC News, said a record 93 per cent of those interviewed rated the U.S. economy as “poor” or “not so good.”

Many economists insist that such bleak views are not justified by any of the standard measures used to gauge economic performance. Compared with previous recessions, they say, the present one is relatively mild.

Unemployment, for example, now stands at 6.8 per cent. In 1982, it peaked at almost 10 per

cent and in the mid-1970s it reached 8.5.

In international comparisons, U.S. unemployment is lower than in many industrialised countries which manage to live with higher rates without the fear and sense of insecurity that has swept the United States.

Australia (10.1 per cent), Belgium (8.3), Canada (10.3), France (9.7), Italy (10.3), Spain (15.4), Britain (8.7) all have higher joblessness rates.

But figures do not tell the whole story. Not since the Great Depression of the 1930s has an economic downturn cut across such a broad spectrum of society.

“This recession has affected a larger cross-section of the work force than previous ones,” said Thomas Kochan, who teaches labour relations at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “It includes higher-status employees who feel they were immune.”

## Watching for the poetic allusions

By William Safire

**WASHINGTON** — Headline writers are the poets of the universe next door. These overstrained wretches understand the restraints of space and meter that bind the writers of Shakespearean sonnets (three quatrains followed by a couplet) or Japanese haiku (three lines, having five, seven and five syllables). Like the poet, the headline writer tries to shoehorn great messages into a few words: some, to show an affinity to poetry, slip allusions to famous poems into their every headlines.

Most of us miss these allusions: they are private communications to the cognoscenti, phrases out of our literary past scribbled by our horseless headmen across a newspaper page, put in a bottle and thrown out to the sea of faces. Thanks to the members of the Poetic Allusion Watch, these furtive expressions of our subliminal culture are spotted when washed up on the beach of this column.

Consider a piece by C.G. Cupic detailed Osijski, Yugoslavia, about the civil war between Serbs and Croats, beginning: "The River Drava flows lazily across the rich Slavonian plain." The International Herald Tribune headline writer capitalised on the sense of place in the feature lead by writing, "On a Darkening Plain, War and Reconciliation."

If memory's fond deceiver serves, that comes from Matthew Arnold's *Dover Beach*, published in 1867, perhaps written around 1848, to suggest the poet's concern with the third wave of the European revolution. "And we are here as on a darkling plain/Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight/Where ignorant armies clash by night."

Let us be true to one another: double." The head: "Grace Under Pressure in 9th, Doubles to Cap Cubs' Rally." In The New Yorker magazine of Nov. 30, 1929, Ernest Hemingway, one of the mighty minds of old, defined guts as "grace under pressure."

An Op-Ed page editor at The New York Times headed a piece by Ernesto F. Betancourt "Let Cuba Be Cuba"; this, as Jeffrey Page of the Passaic, New Jersey, office of the Record notes, "assumes that I associate the line with 'Let Reagan be Reagan' and that I am satisfied with the secondary originality (it is from Jack Kemp, right?)."

This was a phrase popularised by Jack F. Kemp, who disclaims coinage, in urging White House "handlers" to permit Reagan to express his true nature. It had previously appeared in January 1982 as a theme of a United States Information Agency global broadcast directed at Soviet imperialists to "Let Poland Be Poland."

When Bhagawan Shree Raneesh was arrested for some wrongdoing, the Washington Post editorialist Meg Greenfield was heard to murmur, "Let Bhagawans be Bhagawans," a play on bygones from Sir Francis Nethercole's 1648 "Let bygones be bygones." The usage, however, was bottomed on a 1938 work by the poet Langston Hughes titled "Let America Be America Again," which states, "O, let America be America again —/The land that never has been yet —/And yet must be —/The land where every man is free."

Poetic allusions are not limited to headline writers. We have this literary allusion from a New York Times editorialist to cast doubt on Iranian denials of complicity in the murder of a translator of "The Satanic Verses," Salman Rushdie's reputedly blasphemous

novel: "Circumstantial evidence, like finding feathers in the cat's milk, can be highly persuasive."

See Henry David Thoreau's journal entry of Nov. 11, 1854: "Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk."

The alteration is appropriate," finds Gary Muldoon of Rochester, New York. Thoreau's reference to fishy has to do with milk that's been adulterated — not exactly one of big business's scams du jour. Only by knowing of the problems of yesteryear does one readily grasp Thoreau's reference. The Times's mentioning of feathers makes the statement more accessible, conjuring images of Sylvester finally getting the jump on poor Tweety Bird."

Journalists are not alone in the poetic allusion dodge. In Arizona, before entering an airtight greenhouse called Biosphere 2 with seven other intrepid ecologists, Dr. Roy Walford, a gerontologist and survivalist, was quoted as telling the world: "Listen, there is a bell of universe next door waiting to be born."

That was not an idle reference to nearby California or Nevada; as Arnold Henderson of Highland Park, New Jersey, points out, that is an allusion to a fictional doctor's line in the poet e.e. cummings's 1944 "Ixl" (or "one times one"). The uncapitalised cummings liked to paint words on a page, so here is his layout:

A world of made  
is not a world of born...  
We doctors know  
a hopeless case if —  
listen: there's a hell of  
a good universe next  
door; let's go —

The International Herald Tribune (New York Times Service)

## Welcome to Marna House

By Nidal M. Ibrahim  
Special to the Jordan Times

**GAZA** — Sitting in the living room wrapped tightly in a brown, woolen shawl, Alya Shawa stares at the television screen intent on the news. Asperated that neither Jordanian, nor Syrian, Egyptian or Israeli channels have anything on the ongoing peace process, she pulls out her little short-wave radio, extends the antenna and starts moving the dials.

With the peace talks in Washington, Ms. Shawa constantly monitors the news for any new developments. After all, the source to bear all sources has to constantly update her information.

Ms. Shawa, manager of Marna House, a hotel in the Gaza Strip that is run more like a home for wayward reporters and visiting officials, has been called by some the Palestinian Ministry of Information. Rarely do reporters or visiting officials, be they from a foreign country, the United Nations or any other international organisation, set foot in Marna House without eventually seeking the help or advice of the 60-year-old Ms. Shawa in tracking down information.

"The boys (reporters) all call me 'mother,'" she says, the beginning of a smile creeping onto her face. "And if something in town happens, they call me."

Ms. Shawa has been running Marna House for 12 years. "It gives me pleasure to meet people and it allows me to do something for my country," she says. "And strangely enough, it made me realise how much I loved Gaza. It

allowed me to meet with people from Gaza."

Marna House's popularity with reporters and visiting officials grew because of Ms. Shawa's knowledge of the area and its people. A close friend of Haidar Abdul Shafiq, the leader of the Palestinian delegation at the peace process, she is constantly updated on the latest details.

In addition to her understanding of Gaza, Ms. Shawa was constantly visited by the

I walk between  
darkness and light  
the light of exile and  
the shining memory of home.  
The land I knew  
is given up to strangers.  
There in the sunshine  
do they feel my shadow?  
— Mahmoud Darwish (Embroidered poem on top of fireplace in Marna House, in the Gaza Strip).



Alya Shawa, the manager of Marna House, a hotel in the Gaza Strip, sits in front of the fireplace with the radio at hand, ready to get

the boys. Occasionally, she even gets a letter from Anas III, the notorious Israeli prison that has been filled by the mass arrests of intifada activists.

So popular has Marna House become that the Palestinian delegates sometimes hold strategy meetings there. "They all tell me when we have a state this will be it (ministry of information). I tell them you bring me a state then, all I want is a tent to be away from all of you," she laughingly said, giving the impression she is tired of being on top of things.

Until she gets her tent, Ms. Shawa says she will continue to run her hotel, providing reporters and foreign dignitaries with a place to stay while in Gaza. And while staying there, Ms. Shawa is sure to impart with a little information on the state of the Palestinian struggle.

## Jordan's Islamists jubilant

(Continued from page 1)

"I think the Brotherhood sees the FIS victory as a success for the fundamentalist trend in the Muslim World," said an observer, who preferred anonymity.

"They (the Brotherhood) are hoping that the Algerian trend will move eastwards, and with the three Islamic power centres — Iran, Sudan and Algeria — they expect to consolidate their power."

Senior government officials as well as members of other blocs in Parliament declined comment on the Algerian elections saying it was an internal Algerian affair.

The six-member independent Islamic Bloc in the Lower House expressed satisfaction with the Algerian election results.

"It is the democratic choice of the people of Algeria," said Mteir Bustanji, speaking on behalf of the bloc.

Hamas, the leading Islamic movement and a key player in the four-year-old Palestinian uprising, hailed the outcome of the Algerian elections.

"The Algerians have shown to the world that Islam is their genuine choice," said Hams in a statement sent to Reuters.

"Your great victory has painted signs of happiness on the faces of all your mujahideen brethren here and has given them new hope and strength," added the group.

The victory of the Islamic movement in Algeria also represents the yearning of the Algerian people to a better life," Mr. Bustanji said. "Indeed it is an internal Algerian affair and we hope that the

## Israel, S. Africa in joint missile project

ISRAEL has been secretly developing its Barak anti-missile missile in conjunction with South Africa, reports the fortnightly naval newsletter Navint.

The Barak, designed in Israel, is a vertically-launched missile intended for use against anti-ship missiles. According to the newsletter, trial launches were conducted off the Natal coast in August by technicians from the South African government-owned weapons manufacturer Armscor and by Israeli experts.

Navint commented that the Israel-South African collaboration on the Barak was "certain to upset Washington, which has long tried strictly to ensure no missile technology reaches South Africa either from American or other sources." Washington will be particularly irritated in view

of Israel's recent agreement to join the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), an accord under which the leading industrialised states seek to restrict the proliferation of nuclear-capable missiles.

Development of Israel's other anti-missile missile, the Arrow, has meanwhile suffered a setback with the failure of the latest test launch, on 31st October. The objective was for the Arrow to intercept a missile simulating an incoming ballistic missile. Flight International, however, cited sources close to the project as saying that, although the Arrow left the launcher, it "did not behave as expected." The target missile was not engaged and telemetry (control signals between the Arrow and its controllers on the ground) was lost.

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## Dutch, former Soviets advance in Hopman Cup

PERTH (AP) — Power-servers Richard Krajicek and Brenda Schultz lifted the Netherlands to a 3-0 victory over Australia Saturday in the first round of the Hopman Cup exhibition team tennis tournament.

Schultz beat Australia's top woman player Rachel McQuillan 6-7, (5-7), 6-3, 6-2 in the opening women's singles and Krajicek then crushed Todd Woodbridge 6-0, 6-3 in the men's singles.

Schultz and Krajicek defeated the Australian duo 8-4 in the mixed doubles, which was reduced to one pro set. The Netherlands now faces second-seeded Spain.

Natalia Zvereva and Andrei Cherkasov, who formerly represented the Soviet Union but are billed as representing the Commonwealth of Independent States, also advanced to the quarterfinals.

Zvereva and Cherkasov took a winning 2-0 lead over Britain to clinch a meeting Sunday with the fourth-seeded Swiss team of Jakob Hlasek and Manuela Maleeva-Fagniere.

Zvereva defeated Jo Durie 4-6, 6-4. Cherkasov, who formerly represented the Soviet Union but are billed as representing the Commonwealth of Independent States, also advanced to the quarterfinals.

The tournament will continue through Jan. 3 and is one of a number of warm-up events for the Australian Open, which will be played Jan. 13-26 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

Earlier, Karel Novacek and Helena Sukova combined for a mixed-doubles victory Friday night and lifted Czechoslovakia to a 2-1 win over Japan in the first

round of the Hopman Cup. Novacek and Sukova beat Japanese Yashifumi Yamamoto and Kimiko Date 6-2, 6-4. After the teams were level 1-1 after the singles matches at the Perth Superdome.

Other top pairings include the brother and sister Spanish team of Emilio Sanchez and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and the third-seeded American combination of Derrick Rostagno and Amy Fraizer.

The top four teams all had first round byes.

The winning combination in the exhibition will share \$10,000. The runners-up will share \$62,000.

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## 2 killed in Libyan stage of African rally

SABAH, Libya (AP) — The driver and passenger of a support vehicle in the Paris-Cape Town Rally were killed when their Range Rover flipped over in the desert of southern Libya, race officials said.

Laurent Le Bourgeois, 29, and 47-year-old Jean-Marie Sounillac died instantly, a rally spokesman said.

The accident occurred about 260 metres from the finish line of the rally's second stage, a 421-kilometre desert stretch between Sirta and Sabah.

In addition to the run between the two Libyan towns, Friday's race also included a special 375-kilometre segment, and a 46-kilometre liaison.

The support vehicle was to provide mechanical and logistical service to the Ducs de Bourgogne, a team made up of three cars in the three-week race that winds 12,427 kilometre from Paris to Cape Town, South Africa.

The race, which began on Dec. 23, passed through 10 African nations before ending Jan. 16.

It was not known what caused the Range Rover to lose control. "We don't understand what happened," said Gerard Bourgoin, director of the Ducs de Bourgogne team. "The race was finished, the route harmless, extremely flat with only a few small bumps."

The accident brings to 28 the number of people killed in the rally since it began in 1979 as the Paris-Dakar Rally. Last year, the driver of a support truck was shot and killed by an unknown gunman in a village in Mali.

Competitors this year include 332 motorcycles, cars and tractor-trailer trucks. In addition, dozens of support vehicles serving the rally organisation and individual teams, medical vehicles and cars carrying journalists accompany the participants.

Spanish driver Salva Servia and co-driver Jose Puig in a Lada led the car division overall standings with a time of six hours, four minutes, 35 seconds.

Bjorn Waldegard of Sweden and Frank Gallagher of Great Britain driving a Citroen sport won the second stage of the race with a time of 3:29:32.

Italian Alessandro de Petri on a Yamaha led the motorcycles across the second-stage finish line with a time of 4:12:40. De Petri also leads the overall motorcycle division with a time of 7:03:03.

The rally arrived in Libya on Dec. 26 after crossing the Mediterranean from Sete, France. It continued south Saturday to the Libyan oasis of Was Al Kbir.

## Fan who threatened skating star arrested

LOS ANGELES (R) — A man who police say sent threatening and obscene letters to Olympic ice skating champion Katarina Witt and stalked her in Germany was in jail Friday as the skater prepared to appear at a Los Angeles arena.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spokesman said the arrest of 47-year-old Harry Veltman was timed to ensure he could not harm Witt when she appeared in a skating exhibition at the Great Western Forum Friday night.

"We didn't want him on the street. He was a significant threat. Obviously, he was obsessed with this lady," FBI agent James Donckels said.

After his arrest Thursday Veltman appeared in court in Los Angeles and was ordered held without bail on three charges of threatening Witt and sending her obscene letters through the mail.

At his hearing, Veltman said he would never harm Witt and only wanted her "to love me and marry me."

According to court papers Veltman sent more than 60 obscene letters to Witt at her home in Germany during 1990 and 1991, some of which included nude photographs of himself.

In one letter, allegedly written in November 1990, Veltman told the court Veltman had a history of psychological problems.

Witt, who won two Olympic gold medals in the 1980s, is now a professional ice skater.



Katarina Witt

hoping to see her pick them up.

In the November letter he allegedly wrote, "I love you and lust for you so much, Katarina. I would never do anything to harm you. Now you should know it. You have virtually no security in your home. If I were evil, I could have broken a window, entered your house, and raped you and killed you before you could telephone for help."

Prosecutor Uttam Dhillon told the court Veltman had a history of psychological problems.

Witt, who won two Olympic gold medals in the 1980s, is now a professional ice skater.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 29, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Going shopping and doing errands will claim a lot of your time and attention today and since there are no exact aspects you may be able to accomplish many things that are on your to do list.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You want to dash off hither and thither just because you do not have the conditions exactly as you wish about you but it helps not at all and you are in a bad position.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20)

You think you do not have enough of this world's goods and at the same time you feel you want to spend in order to gain peace of mind which is not good now.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21)

You think you can get out in the world and frivolt and have a good time with friends but they have their own activities and you can be disappointed.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 21) You now are in the mood to lash out at a fellow associate and to make him feel you do not approve of him when actually you are merely trying to get conditions better.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 22 to February 19) You are eager to have a good time and you think you can wheedle persons you like into going along with you but they have their own ideas.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have in mind that requires more caution and understanding where your family is concerned is excellent to be kind and considerate.

## 1991 — a good year for Connors

MUNICH, Germany (AP) — Jimmy Connors can look back at 1991 and smile.

"It was a very interesting year in a lot of ways. The year surprised me."

Connors said. "I started out this year happy to start playing and ended up having a hell of a five-month run."

"It's very difficult to say what the U.S. Open did for me. Not only to my tennis but also my mind and my heart about the game and about the sports fan."

"I won't really appreciate it until I am away from Tennis totally. When my competing days are over, I can sit down and say 'hey. This was an incredible time.'

Trouble is, Connors' competing days are not over yet as he approaches 1992.

"If I could go out and play next year like I did this year... that would be pretty nice."

He plans to give himself and his family a two-month break and hit the sea and the slopes before he comes back to tennis next year—the year he turns 40.

"What is 40? It's just a number," Connors said. "I have a feeling once I start, I am going to get in there and have a good goal for myself."

"If I do that, it will be another year like this year. Away from home. Travel. Suitcases. Airplane. Seeing not enough of my family, my wife and kids like that."

"But on the other hand it's what I do. It's tough to accept and I have to block it out of my mind a little bit. But once I do it, I am going to give my whole time to it. My family understands it. I understand it."

"I have a feeling I am going to do it again. And that's the problem."

But after concluding this year with a loss in the Grand Slam Cup, he could still smile.

Last year at this time he was recovering from wrist surgery and had dropped in the tennis rankings because of inactivity. Then he came back well enough to qualify for the tournament which



Jimmy Connors

gathers the top finishers in the Grand Slam tournaments.

It did not come easy.

"A lot happened when I first came back in February. I was more or less starting over and I was treated as such which is pretty understandable. To be out a year and to try to come back was my problem."

"To try to come back and be treated like a beginner was a different kind of problem."

"And that is probably the one thing that shocked me to try to come back and want to play great tennis."

"A lot of people tried to discourage me from playing the

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNHA HIRSCH  
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### TIPTOE THROUGH THE TULIPS

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

### NORTH

♦ Q  
♦ K 10 5 3  
♦ Q J 9 4 3  
♦ K 10 7

### WEST

EAST  
10 8 6 4 3 ♠ K 7 5 2  
7 4 2 ♠ A 8  
6 ♠ A 10 8 5  
9 6 4 2 ♠ 8 3

### SOUTH

♦ A J 9  
♦ Q 9 6  
♦ K 7 2  
♦ A Q J 5

The bidding: South West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass  
2 NT Pass 2 NT Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

Impressed by the speed of the Russian emigre's play, many at the club flocked to the table where Votmai Tinkinov was sitting—that guaranteed that many more hands would be played during the session. Others, less impressed with the accuracy of the Russian's play, shied away. Here's a reason why.

The auction was routine. North checked on the possibility of a 4-4 heart fit and, when none was located, made the value bid of three no trump. Note that five diamonds would be defeated by the 4-1 trump break.

West led the four of spades, cov-

ered by the queen and king and taken by the ace. A diamond to the queen lost to East's ace, and the spades return and continuation forced out declarer's remaining stopper. When the diamonds did not break, declarer had no way to come to nine tricks before the defenders could collect at least five, so South cashed out for eight tricks.

With six fast tricks available in the black suit, declarer needed to develop only three red-suit tricks to get home. The only possible sequence was as long as East, the dangerous hand could be kept at lead. Tricks could be lost to West with impunity, because that declarer could not lead spades without giving declarer a third trick in the suit.

At trick two, therefore, declarer should have crossed to dummy with the ten of clubs to lead a diamond. East cannot rise with the ace—that would allow declarer to run the suit—so South's king will win. Continuing the avoidance play, declarer crosses to the king of clubs and leads a heart to the queen. Again East cannot profitably go up with the ace, and if West has the ace the defenders cannot collect more than two hearts and a diamond before declarer has nine tricks. When the queen of hearts wins, declarer simply reverts to diamonds and has nine tricks—two diamonds, a heart and six in the black suit, before the defenders can run their spades.

## GOING DOWN

BY LARRY STROH

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GOING DOWN

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## Georgian rebels, loyalists reach truce after fighting kills 51

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — Georgian loyalist and rebel forces agreed a ceasefire Saturday after a week of fighting killed 51 people and pushed the southern republic close to civil war.

The truce was announced by an opposition spokesman who said "everything went well. Fighting will stop at five o'clock (1400 GMT) and there will be more talks at seven (1600)."

"I think common sense will get the upper hand," Jaba Ioseliani, head of the shadowy Mkhedrioni (Horsemen) opposition group, told reporters as he left the first round of talks.

He spoke after four hours of negotiations in Tbilisi's Television Centre between rebel National Guard leader Tengiz Kitovani and representatives of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia who denies charges he imposed a dictatorship on Georgia.

Health officials said at least 51 people had been killed and 283 injured since fighting erupted last weekend.

Ceasefire talks started at the opposition-controlled Television Centre after military leaders from each side appeared separately on television and warned that failure to reach a settlement would have serious consequences.

Mr. Kitovani, whose forces have been laying siege to the republic's parliament, represented the opposition at the talks.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia was repre-

sed by Justice Minister Johnny Kheturiani and former Prosecutor-General Vashtank Razmadze.

Russia and Ukraine, the most powerful members of the new Commonwealth of Independent States replacing the Soviet Union, are still at odds on how to handle the Soviet military inheritance, a top official said Friday.

Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, the Commonwealth's acting military commander, was speaking after two days of talks in Kiev and Moscow to try to close the gap that has emerged before a key meeting in the Byelorussian capital, Minsk, next Monday.

Commonwealth leaders must decide in Minsk what to do with Soviet Armed Forces numbering nearly four million and 30,000 nuclear warheads. Most have called for jointly-run armed forces and the destruction of nuclear forces outside Russia.

But Marshal Shaposhnikov told Russian television Ukraine was one of three republics which continued to insist it should form its own independent army.

"Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan maintain the position of (wanting to) create their own armed forces," he said after meeting defence ministers of all 11 member states in Moscow.

"We have already moved on to the concept of joint armed forces from the (Soviet) concept of un-

ited armed forces," Marshal Shaposhnikov said the 11 defence ministers had signed four policy documents to take to Minsk for discussion, but some participants at the talks had "definite reservations."

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told local reporters after earlier talks in Kiev with Marshal Shaposhnikov that he had moved closer to resolving his differences with Russia. "The major questions were settled," he said.

But Interfax News Agency later reported Ukraine had protested because Russia moved a former Soviet aircraft carrier, the Kuznetsov, from the Ukrainian Black Sea coast to its own waters around the port of Murmansk.

Meanwhile, the United States is preparing to set up diplomatic missions in several newly independent republics.

The Bush administration will send advance teams next month to various capitals to work on establishing embassies as quickly as possible, a State Department spokesman said Friday.

President George Bush has said the United States will move to establish diplomatic ties with five other former Soviet republics — as nations.

On Friday, Tokyo recognised Russia.

## Croatian president says occupied territories can be retaken

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said Saturday his republic's army was growing stronger and would be able to recapture territory lost in six months of war.

"Every day the Croatian army becomes better equipped and more prepared in terms of organisation, cadres and resources," Mr. Tudjman told an extraordinary session of parliament.

"Despite its lack of heavy weapons, naval and air force units, (the Croatian army) is capable of defending and liberating all Croatian territories."

Mr. Tudjman also said his government had a duty to look after the interests of the 800,000 Croats living in the ethnically mixed Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina cannot be allowed to become the new victims of political hegemony of any type," he said. "They can and must be under the constant concern of Croatian state policy."

As he spoke, the Serb-led Yugoslav army resumed attacks on Karlovac, lobbing mortar and artillery shells onto the industrial town of some 80,000 people, 55 kilometres south west of Zagreb, Croatian radio said.

It said 10 people were killed and 50 wounded in attacks Friday on Karlovac, a renowned centre of baroque architecture, and that mortar bombs hit a department store and set parked cars ablaze Saturday.

Saturday's attack came during a visit to the town by Cardinal Franjo Kuharic, the Archbishop of Zagreb, and Francesco Angelini, a Vatican official responsible for humanitarian affairs.

"Explosions could be heard while they visited the Franciscan monastery," Croatian television said.

Karlovac is on the western border of a state dreamt of by Serb extremists and is tactically important because of its supply and communications links with the Adriatic coast.

The radio also reported explosions in Osijek, the main town in eastern Croatia. No details were immediately available, and the federal army did not give its version of the latest fighting.

Mr. Babić acknowledged: "Slovenia and Croatia probably will not accept even the minimum of community which the Serbs advocate."

If so, he added, the "new Yugoslavia" "will recognise Slovenia, and there is no reason not to recognise Croatia, but only when the border question is definitely recognised."

## Cambodian factions meet for first time since riots

PHNOM PENH (AP) — U.N. officers and commanders of the four Cambodian armies held formal talks Saturday for the first time to coordinate implementation of a peace accord.

At the meeting, the head of the U.N. military mission, Brig. Gen. Michel Loridon of France, asked the Cambodian commanders to ensure the safety of U.N. officials in the country, according to guerrilla officials who attended the meeting.

The next meeting of the so-called mixed military group was scheduled for Jan. 2.

In October, the Cambodian factions signed a U.N.-brokered peace treaty to end nearly 13 years of war. The accord calls for the United Nations to supervise the ceasefire, demobilise the armies, and help administer the country in the period before elections in 1993.

The Cambodian factions are composed of the government Vietnam installed after invading the country in late 1978 and a coalition of guerrilla groups that had fought it — the Khmer Rouge, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and forces loyal to Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Earlier this month, a United Nations advance mission began deploying peacekeepers, satellite communications systems, and liaison officers at the guerrillas' jungle bases and in the capital, controlled by the government.

Under the peace accord, a Supreme National Council, made up of leaders of the four Cambodian factions, is to help guide the nation in the interim period.

It is finally expected to hold its



Hun Sen

first session in Phnom Penh Monday. Two earlier scheduled sessions were postponed because of rioting against the Khmer Rouge, who are hated for their bloody rule in the 1970s in which as many as one million people died, and against the government, which was accused of corruption and abuse.

On Friday, the National Assembly passed legislation restricting demonstrations and banning those deemed to be security risks.

Prime Minister Hun Sen confirmed that Khmer Rouge leaders Khiem Samphan and Son Sen were scheduled to return to Phnom Penh from Thailand Monday, and said security was prepared for them.

Some parliamentarians had also questioned Mr. Salas's competence to judge the case. He is a former teacher of Mr. Garcia's, appointed by the former president.

## Peru Tribunal throws out appeal on Garcia

LIMA (R) — A special supreme court tribunal has rejected the state's appeal of an earlier ruling to take no action on charges of illegal enrichment brought against former President Alan Garcia.

The tribunal unanimously ratified Supreme Court Justice Roger Salas Gamarra's ruling in early December to shelve charges brought against Mr. Garcia by the attorney general after Mr. Salas judged there were no elements to find the former president guilty of a crime.

In October, Mr. Garcia, 42, was stripped of the parliamentary immunity he enjoyed as a senator for life after congress accused him of having embezzled over \$400,000 in state funds during a decade as a public servant.

Special solicitor Maria Drago, making the state's case, has presented a complaint questioning the impartiality of the justices, all named by Mr. Garcia. In a hearing Thursday, she asked the court to overturn Mr. Salas's ruling and open proceedings against him.

Some parliamentarians had also questioned Mr. Salas's competence to judge the case. He is a former teacher of Mr. Garcia's, appointed by the former president.

"We should also now fix a time limit and say that within this timeframe we have to come to some understanding or some conclusion. We cannot allow the situation to drift the way it is drifting, otherwise we will lose whatever initiative we have in our hands," Mr. Sharif added.

The Pakistani leader said flexibility was the key to progress but offered no clues as to what he had in mind to bridge the huge gap over Kashmir.

"The question is: Do we want to solve this problem or do we not want to solve this problem. We have to decide one way or the other," Mr. Sharif said.

He said the proposed dialogue should involve politicians who could clear the way for top-level talks.

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## Shelling after troop pullout kills 11 in Nagorno-Karabakh

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Eleven people were killed in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory in Azerbaijan Saturday after troops pulled out under orders of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the TASS News Agency said.

Mr. Yeltsin, who has taken control of most Soviet troops across the country, has said he would not be drawn into the centuries-old ethnic conflict and this week ordered the withdrawal of an estimated 2,400 troops.

The U.S. embassy in Moscow will become the embassy to Russia and Robert Strauss, who was ambassador to the Soviet Union, will become ambassador to Russia.

In Kiev, the U.S. consulate will become the embassy to Ukraine, Mr. Synder said. The United States expects to establish embassies in Alma-Ata in Kazakhstan, Yerevan in Armenia and Minsk in Belarus by the end of September, he said.

Japan has recognised the independence of 10 former Soviet republics with immediate effect, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

An official said Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and his cabinet approved recognition of 10 republics — Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Belarus and Moldova — as nations.

On Friday, Tokyo recognised Russia.



An Armenian commander calls his men forward during a battle with Azerbaijani special forces near Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh.

gunmen who infiltrate the territory through a narrow strip of Azerbaijan to mount guerrilla attacks.

Azerbaijan has laid claim to all Soviet military hardware in its territory but has made little attempt to seize it.

The United Nations, which has a sizeable Armenian community, has expressed its concern at the prospects of an arms race between rival republics and singled out Azerbaijan.

Secretary of State James Baker said in a major speech on Dec. 12 there were signs Azerbaijan was arming itself.

"Those who pursue these misguided and anachronistic policies should know they will receive neither acceptance nor support from the West," he said.

Whole Armenian villages have been uprooted and their inhabitants expelled. Communications and transport have broken down.

Armenia has accused the Kremlin of abetting Azerbaijan in trying to chase out the entire Armenian population through a combination of official repression and terror.

Azeri officials blame Armenian

He pointed the Armenian parliament had not revoked a 1989 resolution claiming Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Armenia.

"In a situation when the security of the Azerbaijani people is under threat, the president of the

"We have seen everything recently. People who brought us food and petrol in the daytime, shot at our backs at night.

"We saw Azerbaijani Omens (elite police) looting Armenian villages under the pretext of checking passports. They just drove up some Kamaz (trucks) and loaded everything into it, down to the bed linen," Gen. Pody said.

"It will be a long war."

## 2 Koreas fail to reach nuclear accord

SEOUL (R) — North and South Korea failed Saturday to reach agreement on banning nuclear weapons from the divided peninsula but agreed to keep talking.

A nuclear-free accord is crucial if North and South, still technically at war from the 1950-53 conflict, are to implement a historic non-aggression and reconciliation pact signed on Dec. 13.

Intelligence reports from the U.S. and Japan say North Korea is no more than a year or two away from developing nuclear weapons. Pyongyang says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.

The South told the North it